

SPEAKER LUEDTKE: The Call is not raised. The House is still under Call and we will take up the next matter under item eight on LB 526, Senator Warner's motion to override.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Warner moves that LB 526 become law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor.

SPEAKER LUEDTKE: The Chair recognizes Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, LB 526 has a number of parts in it and the objection that the Governor indicated was just one, which I will comment on, but I also wish to first point out other portions of the bill which are important and I think that, together with the reasons that I will offer for the change in the dates of submission of budget justifies the support of the Legislature to override the Governor's objection or his veto. The other things that occur that are in LB 526, one is the definition as to what constitutes deficiencies. Under the old law or the existing law prior to the passage of this act, deficiencies were listed but never defined. This act defines a deficiency as any adjustment which an agency may choose to make in their authorized appropriation for the current year. This becomes important because the office of Governor is required to make recommendations on deficiencies and under the old law there was really no way to identify what should appropriately be put before him by the agency. This provides that clarification. The second aspect of the bill which again I think is exceedingly important, deals with the budget forms that are submitted by the Department of Administrative Services to the various agencies. What the new language does, it provides a direct input on the part of the Legislature through the Appropriation Committee in the development of those forms so that information which may be of use or necessary for the Legislature in making budget decisions, it will be available and will be on those forms. The ultimate responsibility, of course, remains with D.A.S. In effect we would be advisory but we would have under this statute, the additional authorization to submit independent requests from D.A.S. for information to the various agencies and for the budget process. Also as I indicated when the bill was discussed prior to passage, there has been a great deal of interest in zero budgeting or zero base budgeting on the parts of some members of the Legislature. In reviewing that proposed legislation which was introduced, we felt that an across the board approach of this would be inappropriate, that many times it is developed internally within the executive branch of government but it may well be that on some trial basis, a few agencies, we could use that concept and find it effective and helpful in the budget process. Those two items alone are justification probably to override the bill. Now what I would like to explain on the change in the date for the Governor to submit budgets, the existing law was enacted in 1967 when we had biannual sessions unlimited in days and there was no particular problem with the fact that the Governor's budget could come in by the thirtieth legislative day. Today is the twenty-ninth legislative day of this session. Under the current law the Governor's budget would not even need to be introduced to the Legislature until tomorrow. Obviously anything coming in that late would have virtually no input as far as the Appropriations Committee's deliberations on budget requests. Originally as the bill was introduced, we also had legislative days adjusted because of annual sessions, and in the course of discussion of legislative days, it was the Committee's recommendation it should be changed to a fixed date